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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The riverside history of the United States. Edited by William E. Dodd. In four volumes. (Boston, New York, and Chicago: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1915. 279, xviii; 346, xvii; 329, xxiv; 342, xiv p. \$5.00 net)

Volume I. *Beginnings of the American people.* By Carl Lotus Becker, professor of European history, University of Kansas.

Volume II. *Union and democracy.* By Allen Johnson, professor of American history, Yale University.

Volume III. *Expansion and conflict.* By William E. Dodd, professor of American history, University of Chicago.

Volume IV. *The new nation.* By Frederic L. Paxson, professor of history, University of Wisconsin.

If we may judge from the recent and prospective issues of brief histories of the United States, for the college student and the general reader, we may anticipate such a series connected with each important university center and a resulting plethora for the public. The change in this respect during the last five years has been notable and may indicate a growing interest in the subject or a determination on the part of ambitious scholars to inform the public of their latest researches and interpretations. Perhaps both; at least it is comforting to hope so.

The series before us, like the more conspicuous of its predecessors is a coöperative work. Such, indeed, whether acknowledged or not, has been every important modern work in this field, and the question of detail alone has determined the number of collaborators. With an efficient general editor of such promise as Mr. Dodd; with a common motive, such as is found in the prevailing emphasis upon economic and social elements, at the expense, possibly, of political theory and action; with colleagues of assured position and tested output, we may anticipate a successful presentation of "those things which have counted in the final makeup of the Confederacy of 1783, and of the United States of today."

The authors are to be congratulated for giving us a proportionately adequate treatment of western history. The westward movement begins with the migration to the Connecticut and the Blue Ridge, following Mr. Turner's suggestive method, and keeps pace with the continually receding frontier. The Scotch-Irish and Germans of the eighteenth century are as conspicuous as the Pilgrims of the seventeenth, while the "Great

Awakening" ranks with the "Puritan Hegira." The proclamation of 1763 bulks larger than the Boston disturbances and George Rogers Clark is more prominent than Nathaniel Greene. Western separatism is one of the elements entering into the "grinding necessity" that extorted a "more perfect Union"; and its later manifestations in the intrigues of Genet and the struggle for the navigation of the Mississippi are rightly shown as only slightly less important than the financial problems that beset the new national government. With such an introduction one notes with satisfaction that the trans-Allegheny region, the entire Mississippi valley, and the far West are credited in turn with their due influence from the time the Louisiana purchase to the progressive crusade and the Panama exposition.

A comparison with other series in the apportionment of space may be of some interest. Mr. Becker tells the story to the close of the revolution in approximately a fifth of the total pages. The *American nation* devotes one-third of its volumes to the same period. Mr. Johnson closes volume II at the same point as Hart in the *Epochs series*, but uses double the number of words to corresponding topics. Mr. Dodd compresses the events from Jackson to Johnson into 329 pages, using only a little more than two brief chapters for the civil war. He evidently regards this struggle as only one phase in the overthrow of the planter aristocracy. Hosmer uses two volumes for this conflict and Burgess a like number in their respective series. Mr. Paxson covers precisely the same limits as Haworth in the *Home university library*, using more words by a half. His narrative is not so full as Bassett's nor Beard's, but he uses proportionably more space than the four volumes of the *American nation*. The growing importance of later American history is indicated by the fact that two volumes in this series cover the field of Wilson's *Division and reunion*. The four volumes total some sixty thousand words less than Bassett's *Short history*, but exceed the *Epoch series* by about twice that number — enough for the extra volume.

Something over a tenth of the space is devoted to the wars of the United States, but less than half of this describes the actual campaigns. Barely forty pages touch upon literary and intellectual life, including, we are glad to note, casual reference to writers on history and government. Goodly portions of all but the second volume are concerned with what we may term the "life" of the American people. That volume follows the more ordinary political trend, as is only natural for the formative period of our national history. Despite the material emphasis there is no formal chapter on the physical basis. One likewise misses the companion chapter on the Indians, which we have grown accustomed to expect in recent histories.

The neat red volumes are handy duodecimos, whose pages lack para-

graph numbers, indentations, or other ear marks of the formal text. There is a regrettable absence of dates in the first volume and some confusion in the chronology of the third. The first volume does not conform to the system of chapter divisions in the others. In all of them typographical and other errors are numerous enough to justify the usual fears of a first edition. The brief bibliographies at the close of each chapter are suggestive, but often would be found serviceable only in the vicinity of large libraries. There is a noticeable silence in regard to any possible competitors of the series. The indexes are disappointingly meager with some errors and omissions.

In accord with the latest scholarship the authors make extensive use of maps. Sixty-six of these, and five charts, illustrate every conceivable phase of American life that is capable of graphic reproduction. Three-fourths of them occur in the second and third volumes. Some are borrowed, with due credit, from familiar works, but a goodly number bear the seminary impress. In a few cases the accompanying explanation should be slightly increased. Taken as a whole the maps form the most important single feature of the work. The frontispieces form the only other illustrations. Franklin usurps the place usually reserved for Washington, which is in keeping with Becker's treatment, while the series appears late enough to permit Wilson to grace the page that otherwise must have been Roosevelt's. Jefferson and Lincoln occupy their customary places.

The shifting of frontispieces foreshadows a new treatment of personalities in the text. Columbus occupies hardly more space than Henry the Navigator. Champlain and Spottswood are barely mentioned. Jonathan Edwards looms up above John Winthrop and Colonel Byrd bulks larger than Berkeley and Bacon together. Martin Noel is a greater figure than William Penn. Wilkinson surpasses Arnold and Burr in treacherous intrigues. Calhoun and Clay each occupy about equal space in the index, and either receives more attention than Webster, although the latter is treated with sympathy. Robert J. Walker excels Silas Wright as a politician and more than rivals Chase and Charles Francis Adams in the finance and diplomacy of the civil war. Marcus A. Hanna encroaches upon space that once might have been John Sherman's. The most conspicuous instances of change in emphasis occur in the first and third volumes, which are also the most original.

Mr. Becker precedes his study of American colonization by a comprehensive résumé of European history that is likely to prove more suggestive to the specialist than enlightening to the student. Yet even the latter must appreciate the logical arrangement of his theme and the beauty of diction with which he clothes it, and find in it an incentive to

better literary effort. Originality in interpreting early colonial experience is equalled by the "life" imparted to the "neglected period." Such a difficult climax as the declaration of independence (p. 253) is characterized by an adequate charm of phrase. With all its excellence, however, the volume is a brilliant dissertation on American history rather than a narrative. Above all it will hardly prove a successful textbook.

Mr. Johnson presents in his volume a clear and concise résumé of recent monographic work as well as of the better known volumes of Henry Adams, McMaster, and Turner. In his field originality is not the part of wisdom and he has not attempted it. The result is the best textbook of the series.

Mr. Dodd has essayed to bring new light to bear upon questions already subjected to fairly definitive interpretation. His purpose is to show the interplay of sectionalism at a time when political theories, not yet demonstrated, are being unsettled by new and unperceived economic forces. In the long run, as he points out, the Northwest united with the East to overthrow the planter aristocracy of the lower South and replace the loose confederacy of the middle century with the nationalism of the present era. His treatment of nullification and the national bank is rather disappointing. Approaching his own South with a sort of detached sympathy, using neither apology nor vituperation, he makes it clear that secession did not have its exclusive habitat in that section. His suggestive chapter of "The militant south" causes an unfortunate division in the discussion of slavery. The explanation of the abolition movement should certainly precede the Mexican war. Nor will one rest entirely satisfied with his treatment of the Wilmot proviso or the Kansas-Nebraska act. Lincoln the man, in his view, is greater than Lincoln the senatorial candidate or president, and is the direct product of that western democracy, which he portrays so well for the Jacksonian period. His volume is a most helpful and original study of an exceedingly complicated period.

Mr. Paxson's volume is thoroughly in harmony with the preceding one in minimizing the civil war and its aftermath. His opening chapter dwells on the industrial and fiscal development during that conflict rather than its political and military annals. "Restoration" replaces the more familiar "Reconstruction," but some twenty pages suffice to describe the process, including the quarrel between Johnson and the congressional leaders. Neither in this nor in the chapter on "The new South" does he exhibit the insight that comes from extensive personal observation in the section described or an intimate sympathy with its people. "Greenback" and "granger" issues, the tariff, "free silver,"

and populism profit by repression elsewhere. His treatment of these themes is well balanced, and clear. Less biased than his chief rivals in this field, he is occasionally less readable. Without adopting the scolding tone of the *Nation* — evidently an important source — he preserves even in his closing chapters its spirit of aloofness. This is especially apparent when he touches all too briefly upon labor conditions. He is more successful in the treatment of foreign relations, although the chapter on the war with Spain would profit by expansion. Yet he shows how this cuts athwart the recent development of American life just as the civil war did at an earlier period. And as in the earlier instance, after a brief interruption, he shows how the American people quickly resumed their normal rate of progress. It is this picture of orderly though complicated development that these volumes afford us with a brevity and directness that bespeak for them a wide circle of readers.

ISAAC JOSLIN COX

Der Kampf um deutsche Kultur in Amerika. Aufsätze und Vorträge zur deutsch-amerikanischen Bewegung. Von Dr. Julius Goebel, Professor der deutschen Sprache und Literatur an der Staatsuniversität von Illinois. (Leipzig: Verlag der Dürr'schen Buchhandlung, 1914. 147 p. 3 marks)

Mr. Goebel's little volume, comprising chiefly addresses on the Germans in America and the preservation of their ideals and *Kultur*, delivered between the years 1894 and 1914, gains a peculiar, and in a sense a pathetic, interest by the world-stirring events which have taken place since this volume appeared early in the fateful year, 1914. For, whether one sympathizes with the pro-German point of view or not, it must be admitted that the antagonisms aroused by the war of nations and by the friction in our own relations with Germany will check for a long time to come the movement for the development of interest in matters Germanistic which has been making much headway of late years.

Of this Mr. Goebel has been one of the foremost champions as he has been one of the few scholars who realize that the surface of the history of the Germans in this country has yet barely been scratched. The volume before us includes his essays on the use of the names "Dutchman" and "Dutch" as terms of opprobrium for Germans; on the part that America has played in German poetry; on the poetry of German-Americans; on Germans in the writing of American history; on the German-Americans in Lincoln's time and an address delivered at the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of New Bern. To the fascinating story of this German colony in North Carolina, Mr. Goebel has already made important contributions through publications of the German-American Historical Society of Illinois.